

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing**

**Subject:** Bank Holiday Opening for Leisure Facilities 2024

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Author:** Andy Fretwell, Leisure Manager

### **Wards Affected**

Borough Wide

### **Purpose**

To seek approval for opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities for bank holidays in 2024, up to and including the August Bank Holiday.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Recommendation**

**THAT:**

- 1) Approval is given for the bank holiday opening hours in the Council's leisure facilities in 2024.**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Previously, reports have shown relatively poor income and attendances at the leisure centres over bank holiday periods as most regular and block booking customers do not attend. As a result of this low usage and an increase in costs associated with opening on bank holidays, leisure centres normally close, with the exception of Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, which has usually operated between 7.00am – 3.00pm. Opening Carlton Forum on a bank holiday has allowed customers, especially those on a monthly or annual membership to have access to a leisure facility to exercise. It also provides for children and families to use a facility, should

they wish, as schools are closed on the bank holidays.

- 1.2 The Richard Herrod Centre has traditionally remained open on bank holidays. Compared to an average day, usage of the Richard Herrod Centre has been modest, although opening does enable the Gedling Indoor Bowls Club to use the facility, which is part of their agreement. The centre has previously opened 10.00am until 7.00pm. This has appeared to be more successful than having a later opening.
- 1.3 Usage at the Bonington Theatre is dependent upon the films available and showing at the cinema, but usage levels on bank holidays are typically what would be expected for the films that are shown on any other days.
- 1.4 By operating a reduced service over bank holidays it allows staff to take annual leave, where required, without having to provide full replacement cover. It therefore seems sensible in both operational and business terms to limit the number of facilities and opening hours available.
- 1.5 Typically Calverton Leisure Centre has always closed on bank holidays, although it was opened for the two-day Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday. Usage at this site was considerably lower than expected over both days.
- 1.6 There are no planned maintenance works expected at any of the sites on any of the bank holidays as most contractors are closed and staffing costs make working on this day prohibitive.
- 1.7 Bank Holidays in 2024 are as follows:

Good Friday	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Monday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
May Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
August Bank Holiday	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> August

## **2 Proposal**

It is proposed that:-

- 2.1 Carlton Forum Leisure Centre is opened from 7.00am – 3.00pm on all bank holidays. This allows day-time availability of a wide variety of activities and sessions at one site.
- 2.2 Arnold, Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres to close all bank holidays.
- 2.3 Richard Herrod to remain open, with opening times of 10.00am-7.00pm (bar to close at 6.30pm).

- 2.4 The Bonington Cinema to remain open as follows, although this may be subject to change depending upon the films available for showing:

Good Friday	Friday 29th March	10am – 10pm
Easter Monday	Monday 1st April	9.30am – 10pm
May Day	Monday 6th May	Midday – 10pm
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 27th May	9.30am – 7pm
August Bank Holiday	Monday 26th August	Midday – 10pm

### **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 The council could do nothing and continue to open the leisure facilities with the normal operating hours. This option would mean a waste of resource in terms of heating, lighting and staffing of the facilities for extremely low levels of customer use.
- 3.2 Alternative leisure centre opening hours to those contained in the proposal could be considered. However the proposal takes into account previous usage levels on bank holidays.
- 3.3 The Richard Herrod Centre and/or the Bonington Theatre could be closed on these days. Although usage has traditionally been low at Richard Herrod on bank holidays, the facilities have customarily been opened to provide a service to those residents wishing to utilise the facilities that these two venues provide, as well as enabling the bowls club to operate.

### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Staff contracted to work at the sites which are opened on these days will be expected to attend work, otherwise they will need to utilise leave, as is normal practice on closure days.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, employees working on agreed closure days will have appropriate rates of pay applied to them.
- 4.3 Although there will be an increase in costs by opening on the bank holidays, compared with normal days, the approved base budget will be utilised to pay for staffing at those sites which remain open.

### **5 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with the revision to the opening

hours.

## **6 Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications**

There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **8 Appendices**

8.1 There are no appendices with this report.

## **9 Background Papers**

None identified

## **10 Reasons for Recommendations**

10.1 To allow for a continued, daytime leisure provision over the bank holidays in 2024 to ensure that a level of customer service is provided at the Council's leisure facilities.

10.2 To allow staff to take annual leave without the need to provide full cover.

10.3 To ensure that the centres are operating within the approved base budget.

### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**